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Saxton Daylily Gardens

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

Daylilies from Seed

Within the last 20 years over 6000 named varieties of daylilies have been produced. This phenomenal development indicates the amazing improvements which have been made in this ideal garden flower. It is also a sign of the ease with which daylilies can be raised from seed, and the fine results even a beginner can achieve with seedlings from top quality parent stocks.

The present rush to name new daylilies and introduce them at prices up to \$25.00 per plant has left the home gardener in somewhat of a daze. Unfortunately these high prices have no relation to the value of the new introduction, and many a buyer has been disappointed in his high priced acquisition. The truth of the matter is that not more than 10% of the named varieties now in existence are distinct and worthy of places among our choice flowers. A very large percentage of them are but poor duplicates of older and better sorts.

It takes from five to ten years to build enough stock of a new named variety to warrant its introduction. Meanwhile every breeder is finding each year improvements in his new seedlings. Therefore, by the time the selected novelty is offered for sale, it is already far surpassed by several years of breeding improvement. What the gardener gets for his \$25.00 investment is a plant already made obsolete by improvements in more recent seedlings. When you consider that anyone can grow daylilies from seed and flower them in two years, it becomes obvious that the home gardener can easily raise daylilies which will surpass the highest priced novelties.

And daylilies are as easily raised from seed as any annual flower (see our directions in this folder). Not only will a packet of seed give you scores of plants for a fraction of the cost of one named novelty, but a large portion of your seedlings will surpass that novelty in most characteristics, and you will have the exciting pleasure of watching in your own garden the unfolding of a new and lovely blossom which has never before been seen.

In our twenty years of breeding daylilies we have observed and grown most of the new and expensive introductions. Our own developments have won honors and awards. No breeder has access to finer parent stock than we grow, and our seed is hand-crossed for finest color, form, plant vigor and beauty. We expect our own seedlings to surpass the best named varieties each succeeding year. The seed we send you is the same as we plant ourselves. It will grow just as fine daylilies for you as it will for us.

Selected Daylily Seedling Plants

Each year we grow thousands of seedlings for improved colors and forms. When these flower they are marked in the field for color and excellence of flower beauty. The percentage of fine flowers is quite high; in fact most of them surpass the standard named varieties. However we keep only a very few plants for further observation and seed production.

We have had so many requests for the outstanding seedlings remaining that we have decided to offer them to our customers who prefer to buy plants rather than raise them from seed. These are large plants (sometimes clumps) which have already flowered, and been especially marked by color. We try to select them so as to give you a nice range within the color section. No two plants are alike. Delivery will be in August and September only for color groups. We can supply some of the mixed colors in late spring.

PRICES

Flowering size Seedlings in Mixed Colors \$3.50 per dozen

Flowering size Seedlings in Pink tones \$6.00 per dozen

Flowering size Seedlings in Red, Purple or Yellow shades
(minimum 6 each) \$5.00 per dozen

(Add postage at the rate of 50c per dozen)

Saxton's Select Hand-Pollinated Daylily Seed

New Crop Available each year about mid-September

MIXTURE OF ALL COLORS and TYPES

Recommended for those starting to grow daylilies. This mixture includes seeds from the color selections plus pastels, bicolors, eyed types and combinations which cannot be segregated into special groups. Some of the most beautiful and unusual flowers will be found in this mixture.

Packet of 50 seeds \$1.00

Packet of 125 seeds \$2.00

SPECIAL SELECTION for PINK and ROSE Shades

There is great interest in daylilies in shades from pastel-pink to rose-pink. We grow the finest new pink daylilies such as Evelyn Claar, Pink Dream, Picture, Jennie Love, Pink Spode, Magic Dawn, Empire Rose, True Delight and Bridesmaid. This seed is produced by intercrossing these fine pinks including our own best pink seedlings. It should give outstanding results in the pink range of color.

Packet of 50 seeds \$2.00

Packet of 100 seeds \$3.50

SPECIAL SELECTION for CRIMSON and RED SHADES

Seeds obtained from intercrossing such fine reds as Red Marvel, Crimson Glory, Poinsettia, Display, Mable Fuller, Crimson Tide and our finest red seedlings.

Packet of 50 seeds \$1.50

Packet of 100 seeds \$2.50

SPECIAL SELECTION for PURPLE and MAROON SHADES

The deep tones, including purple and velvety red, and the lilac-blue shades have greatly improved in recent years. This seed is especially fine and is produced from Royal Purple, Raven, Purple Mist, Far Hills, Bishop, Canyon Purple, Tiffany and Lilac Time.

Packet of 50 seeds \$1.50

Packet of 100 seeds \$2.50

SPECIAL SELECTION for YELLOW and GOLD SHADES

For this strain of seed we have used only the largest and finest of the new yellows and golds, including those which approach white. For sheer beauty of flower this selection should be most outstanding.

Packet of 50 seeds \$1.50

Packet of 100 seeds \$2.50

SPECIAL SELECTION for MINIATURE FLOWERS

We have for years been experimenting with dwarf and miniature daylilies. These are unexcelled for edging and rockery work, or the small border. Try a few.

Packet of 25 seeds \$1.00

Packet of 100 seeds \$3.00

ALTISSIMA HYBRIDS

Crosses made on 3rd. and 4th. generation altissima hybrids for new colors, forms, and improved growth factors with multiple branching. Only a few seeds available in 1958-59.

Packet of 15 seeds \$1.00

Packet of 50 seeds \$2.75

NOTE: Because of the complex parentage of modern daylily hybrids, we cannot guarantee that our selections for particular colors will come entirely true. However, a high percentage should show the color characteristics of the parents.

DEALERS: Send for our wholesale list.

All Seeds are Shipped Prepaid by First Class Mail

How to Grow Daylilies from Seed

Daylily seed is harvested in the fall, and is available from late September through the winter. In the south, and in warm sections, daylily seed can be planted as soon as ready and wintered outside or in a cold frame. Our own method is adapted to localities which have a long, cold winter.

We start our daylily seed in boxes of soil indoors in January or February. The soil should be light but able to hold moisture. A good garden soil with some peat moss added should prove fine. If the soil is too heavy add some sand and mix well. Do not add fertilizer to the seeding mixture. The boxes should not be too shallow. A minimum of 3" of soil is advisable, and deeper if convenient. The new plastic seed trays are practical and hold moisture well.

Plant the seed in rows 2" apart, spacing the seeds about 1" in the rows. They should be covered with $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " of soil. Daylily seeds are large and should not be planted too shallow. Water the seed flats well, cover with a glass or cardboard and keep in a warm place at room temperature to germinate. Examine every few days and water if necessary. The flats must not be allowed to dry out but need not be wet. Germination should take place in from two to four weeks. As soon as the first shoots appear, bring into the light and remove the cover. Keep the soil moist, and additional seeds will germinate later.

Some growers prefer to plant the seeds in cold frames in late fall for germination the following spring. In some cases freezing seems to aid germination, but we have had fine results with indoor growing. Another method is to plant outside in the garden in early spring. Pulverize the soil, and keep covered and moist until germination occurs.

The seedlings will grow rapidly and should be kept watered but given plenty of sunlight and air circulation. Daylily seeds are not subject to the damping-off fungus but don't keep the seedlings soaking wet. When the seedlings are 3 or 4 weeks old, give a weak solution of liquid fertilizer, and from then on feed the seedlings every 2 or 3 weeks. By late April or May 1st you will have husky little plants with several leaves, and about 6" to 8" high.

The seedlings are now ready to transplant to the garden. Prepare a mellow, well worked soil for them with some humus or compost added, but no fresh manure or strong chemical fertilizers. Transplant the seedlings in rows 12" apart spacing the plants 8" apart in the row. Water with a fine rose type spray or the hose turned very fine until soil is saturated. Keep the soil moist until the plants are settled.

Once growing in the garden, daylilies require little attention. Keep the weeds down, and give liquid fertilizer or a little vigoro scratched around the plants once a month. These spring set plants will need no winter protection, and should flower well the second summer.

Selections can be made of your favorite flowers at time of flowering, and the seedlings transplanted into borders or beds, spaced about 2 feet apart, in late summer without disturbing the root system at all. Do not plant daylilies deeply and within a year or two you will have a large and beautiful clump.

Address All Orders to

SAXTON DAYLILY GARDENS

| FIRST STREET

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK